

occurred in Ohio there was stated that no single school was found to be a focus of infection.

Table of Cases of Poliomyelitis in California for 1913, 1914, 1915.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Case rate per 1000.	Fatality per 100.
1913.....	90	33	.033	36.67
1914.....	56	26	.020	46.43
1915.....	62	19	.022	30.65

CONCLUSIONS.

Judging from the data reported above it would seem that either the disease is only slightly contagious or that there are many persons with a natural immunity or who acquire immunity without showing symptoms of the disease.

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SIR VICTOR HORSLEY.

An Appreciation.

By ANDREW STEWART LOBINGIER, M. D.,
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Only a few weeks ago the scientific world was startled by a dispatch from the Far East telling of the death of Sir Victor Horsley.

During the early part of the war he had been in France. Later he was called to the base at Alexandria for the Gallipoli campaign. In a letter from there a year ago he mentioned a promotion to consulting surgeon, and in another letter from Bombay, received two weeks before his death, the distressing situation in Mesopotamia with its imperative need was vividly disclosed. Because this was the most demanding service, he generously responded to it regardless of the frightful conditions to which ultimately he succumbed.

How difficult it is to write calmly of such a sacrifice, even for the country he so dearly loved. The loss to science of such a mentality as Victor Horsley's is out of all proportion to any patriotic or humane demand of any country. His titanic genius belonged to the whole world and his constructive philanthropies were of all times most needed now.

Horsley's mind, in the clarity of its scientific vision, was of the mold of Darwin, Huxley and Tyndall. He surpassed his peers in that human warmth and fellowship which made him instant kin with all that suffered, however lowly their estate.

How often have we known of the generous instinct which thought it no hardship to go at any hour of the night to the most sinister haunts of squalor in Whitechapel or Soho to help some poor suffering creature. That was why he fell fighting for his fellowman in the glare of the killing heat along the Tigris. His dauntless spirit volunteered for the difficult and discouraging tasks before which weaker minds paled in fear.

It is unthinkable that the activities of this master mind are forever closed. For more than thirty years he was held by the profession to be easily the first authority on the surgery of the brain and cord. In truth it were no exaggeration to say he created brain surgery and made of it an organized scientific entity.

We cannot here recount the long succession of brilliant researches which singularly distinguished his career. He was made a fellow of the Royal Society at twenty-three. From that time on with a rapid sequence, unexampled in our guild, his honors came in crowding numbers. During his life and at his death his own countrymen rated him as England's first, most versatile and accomplished surgeon. Kocher, who of the Continental men knew him most intimately, so classed him in enthusiastic compliment. But in those whose rare privilege it was to know him as a personal friend, there developed a bond of affection akin to worship. He was so altogether lovable in his companionship, so incomparable in his hospitalities, so charming in sport.

Amongst the many tributes to Sir Victor's memory none has seemed to me quite so appealing and so true as that from Stephen Paget,* from which I beg his permission to quote freely:

"... Sir Victor Horsley's death neither shortens nor lengthens the war by one-half hour. That is true, but we might spend a half-hour to some advantage thinking of him and his work. Why St. Paul calls St. Luke the beloved physician I hardly know. St. Luke's medical knowledge doubtless was such as Browning in the epistle of Karshish attributes to an Arab physician of St. Luke's time. The phrase has become a kindly compliment to any doctor who is gentle and considerate to his patients, charitable in giving his thought and skill even to people who get them for nothing; honorable in the keeping of secrets and attentive to the happiness of the patient's family. There are legions and legions of beloved physicians at that rate. If that were the sum of our loss by Victor Horsley's death we should hardly need, as things are now, to think of him.

"I knew him for thirty years, thirty years of friendship unbroken and on my side unbreakable. There was nobody like him, nobody in his profession so strong in science and practice both together, with such a record of original work in physiology, pathology and surgery, with such passion for im-

* British Weekly.

provement and reform, such vivid enjoyment of life and of work.

"He was the greatest surgeon that we had, great alike in scientific research and in surgical dexterity. He was the acknowledged master and leader in that most laborious field of surgery, the operative treatment of the diseases and injuries of the brain and the spinal cord. At the very beginning of his career when he was at the Brown Institute he was the highest authority in England on the preventive treatment against rabies. Later came his admirable work on the thyroid gland which has helped to save mankind from the curse of myxedema and sporadic cretinism. I cannot draw out a list of his researches here. In the originality and width of range of his work he was greater than Lister. In the use of his imagination in science, that instinct or prophetic power which has been the making of some of the very greatest men in science, he was not far behind Pasteur. In the rush and intensity of his work, the fulness of each day's affairs, the high pressure under which he lived and died, the incessant strain which he put upon himself; in all these he was ahead of us, crowding into each day enough for two lives.

"It is a good thing to be able to remember well the look of his face, the sound of his voice and the sound of his laughter. He was singularly handsome; a very noble clear-cut, very sensitive face revealing swiftly what was in his mind. You might walk through London from end to end without seeing a face with so much distinction in it. . .

"The wonder of his life is that he was not content even with all his science and with all his practice. He added to them; how he found time and strength for it I hardly know; to all his research work, hospital work and private practice, he added the passionate zeal of a reformer, a man sworn to fight hard in politics, both general and medical politics. . . To him the questions of reform in medical politics and the burning questions of national politics, the refusal to give votes to women, the permitted wastage of national health and efficiency by drink, the gulf between class and class; these were not politics, they were mankind; he was serving mankind just as well by standing for Parliament as by making experiments in a laboratory or operating in a hospital. I could never feel like that about him, but I know that he would have done splendid work in Parliament. . . He was near sixty when he died, but we had only just begun to think of him as no longer a young man, so keen was he, so insatiable to work. The innumerable honors which he bore so lightly—I never heard him speak of any of them—and the amazing output of his original work in science, the improvements which he had introduced into surgical practice, the multitude of lives which he had saved by his skill or had taught other men to save, and his passionate advocacy of causes which most doctors find no time either to defend or oppose—all these things were before the war.

"He had served in the South African war, he must serve again; we heard of him in authority now in Egypt, now in India, then he went to

Mesopotamia and there he died. It seems right that he should have died not of any wound but of the heat and light of the sun itself; it goes well with his ardent life and with the light that his work brought to the science and art of surgery. . .

"I say again, there was nobody like him. But he is gone, whom so many of us almost worshiped and so many of us envied; the man indomitable, indefatigable, generous, impulsive, who made us lesser men look like a tame and colorless lot, and went at full speed from his boyhood to his death for his country, as if all his life were nothing but fire and light for mankind."

FEDERAL SUPERVISION AND LICENSURE OF CLINICAL LABORATORIES UNDER THE POSTAL REGULATIONS—A PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURE.

By FRED I. LACKENBACH, Associate Fellow, American Medical Association, San Francisco.

The breaking of some culture tubes while in the mails, thereby exposing postal clerks to infection, is said to be responsible for recent activity in enforcing the laws governing the admission to the mails of specimens of diseased tissues, cultures of microorganisms, etc. These regulations, primarily for the protection of those handling the mails and to guard against the possible transmission of disease through contamination of mail matter, exercise in substance a supervisory control over all laboratories and individuals who may receive such specimens through the mails. Through the broad application of these regulations and the exercise of good judgment on the part of the Postmaster General and local Postmasters there is a strong probability that there will be accomplished a regulation of clinical laboratories which has been impossible through any other means. That such regulation is imperatively necessary is obvious to all who are interested in medical and public health problems. The findings of a clinical laboratory may have an exceedingly important bearing upon the health and welfare of a community, as might be the detection of a typhoid polluted water or milk supply, or the control of a diphtheria epidemic. And when it comes to the examination of blood specimens for the detection of syphilis, for example, and the possible far-reaching effects upon the individual, his dependents and the community at large, the laboratory investigator assumes a responsibility that is certainly a matter of governmental concern and solicitude. It is to be hoped that these regulations will weed out the parasitical commercialized laboratories which prey alike upon the public and the unsuspecting physician, and the postoffice authorities should be given every assistance possible by medical organizations, physicians and others, to enable the proper licensing of the deserving and the elimination of the fraudulent laboratories.

A communication from the office of the Solicitor of the Post Office Department at Washington states that "permits to receive by mail such specimens are issued to laboratories only and not to individuals." Those who are conducting laboratories are requested to advise the office of the